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Falcon Sports Soar into Spring

Special Edition of
The BG News



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ON THE COVER...

Left to right (top):

Jill Strawser, Mary Louise Zurbach and Cheri Triner take a lap on the track during practice. Head coach Steve Price is ready for Spring season to begin.

Senior tennis player Doug Dickinson hits a forehand return in a recent tennis practice. He is one of three seniors the Falcons will rely on this Spring.

Left to Right (bottom):

Freshman Missy Clay hurries to get under a fly ball in a recent softball practice. She is one of several Falcons head coach Jackie Joseph hopes will help BG improve.

Falcon baseball player Dwayne Callaway winds up

Top cover photos and bottom left, by Jay Murdock
Bottom right cover shot, by Tim Norman



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by Sebastien Caruthers
sports writer

The men's tennis team has had a very good year so far despite their youth and extremely hard schedule.

A big reason for its success and steady improvement is its excellent senior leadership.

The Falcons are led by tri-captains Doug Dickinson, Steve Mudre, and Mike Teets, all of whom are third-year letterwinners.

"I have used and abused my tri-captains this year," head coach Gene Orlando said. "The demands and expectations of the program have increased with each season and they have met and gone beyond each challenge every year."

So far, the Falcons have compiled a 3-4 record in dual matches as well as had a very solid showing in the MAC Indoor Championships with freshman Todd Koehler going to the finals.

The team's record is misleading because three of the four losses were to Big Ten teams, two of which are nationally ranked. The other loss came to Northern Illinois, one of the top ranked teams in the Midwest.

"We started out playing teams from the Big Ten and had quite a few individual matches which were very close," Teets said. "This particular indoor season is by far the toughest non-conference schedule we have ever played."

Dickinson believes such a demanding schedule has raised the level of the team's game since the start of the season. Mudre agreed, but added that "confidence-wise it hurts sometimes."

Even though the Falcons did not play Robert Morris last weekend due to the sickness of the Colonials' coach, they still have one more dual match against Ohio State before the start of their seven game Spring Break trip and their MAC conference games.

"This Spring break is strictly business," Orlando said. "We are playing seven times in nine days against teams from three different conferences."

"Having success during our Spring trip would be nice, but our ultimate goal is to do well in our conference games and hopefully make it to the MAC finals," Dickinson said.

The team's goal is especially meaningful for the seniors because they will be graduating this

May after the MAC finals.

"The seniors have worked their butts off for four years," Teets said. "It would be nice to end our careers on the same court with trophies in our hands."

All three seniors have led by example this year. Mudre has been playing solid tennis at number four singles (2-5) with a lot of close-match losses. The business major has above a 3.0 GPA and was recruited as a freshman by former coach, Bob Gill.

Dickinson and Teets, who are roommates, have been playing excellent tennis of late by winning their last four matches at number three doubles. Their three losses came to Big Ten competition, two of which were very close matches that could have gone either way.

Dickinson, who is a Liberal Arts major with a 2.5 GPA, was also recruited while Teets, who is a Spanish Education major with over a 3.0, was a walk-on.

"Each captain has done an outstanding job, but their biggest challenge ever is just ahead of them this Spring season," Orlando said.

"We are a talented team," Dickinson said. "It is up to us to make things happen in order to have a successful season."



BO News/Jay Murdoch

Freshman tennis player Jeff Huffman fires a two-handed backhand during a recent practice.

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Nye has golf teams set to tee it up

by Kevin Cummings
sports writer

Coming off a strong bid to finish in the top three in last year's Mid-American Conference championships, the men's golf team now looks to dethrone four time champion Miami.

The Redskins won their fourth consecutive MAC crown last year by shooting a four round total of 1,519 compared to the Falcons

final round score of 1,568. BG has finished fifth in the seven-team field each of the last three years.

A solid nucleus of four returning players combined with a roster of more experienced players to fill the number five and six spots should make head coach Greg Nye's squad much improved this season.

The team's top four players include senior co-captain Doug Ray who led the team with a 77.4 stroke average as a sophomore

and was second on the team last season shooting a 77.6. He has finished tied for ninth place in the conference championships each of the last two years.

The other three players who should provide the backbone to the team are Brett Fulford, who led the team last season with a 77.3 average (fifth in the league tournament, but earning him MAC honors), Pat Konesky, who had the fourth best team score (78.1 average), and Wayne Muel-

ler, who was third on last years' squad with a 77.9 stroke average.

"We have four players, Ray, Fulford, Mueller, and Konesky, returning who have a great deal of experience," Nye said. "I'll be looking to that group to move us up to the next level as far as top four scoring goes."

"It's not going to be easy to move up in the conference," Nye added. "This (the MAC) is one of the best golfing conferences in the north. Last year the conference was stronger than the Big-10."

Other returning players from last year's squad include senior Tim Goeller (80.3), senior co-captain Bill Lehman (79.4), junior Paul Green (82.0), sophomores Kyle Henzel (80.9) and Shawn Perry (78.5), and newcomers Scott Piesen (Lakewood H.S.) and Garry Winger (Saunders H.S. in London, Ontario).

"All of the spots in our lineup are open during the early season qualifiers, so we will see other players that have contributed in the past vie for open spots," Nye said.

"Both incoming freshmen have had excellent summers competitively and should push to get into the lineup," Nye added. "All of this adds up to improved scoring from our top players and added depth."

The Falcon women who play

the majority of their schedule in the fall return this spring with three matches, including the NCAA championships in May.

Once again Coach Nye will be counting on the play of four players to lead his team during the shortened season.

Leading the team is three-year letter winner Heidi Wright, who shot the best average of her career last year (82.9), almost two full strokes better than the next Falcon golfer.

Nye should also see marked improvement in sophomores Jennifer Girdlestone and Sue Balmer. Girdlestone was second on the team with a 84.6 average, while Balmer shot a 85.9 her freshman season.

"We will be counting heavily on a nucleus of three players," Nye said. "Jennifer and Sue have worked hard on their games this summer and Heidi will be a strong leader both on and off the course."

"I also look for Ann Alexander to bounce back from what even she considered was a below average sophomore season. The fifth spot will likely be a battle between a group of sophomores and freshmen," Nye added.

Other Falcons looking to make the traveling squad include: Jenny Best, Amy Edenfield, Angie Ford, Margaret Long, Kim Prasse, and Gina Vecchiarelli.

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BB News/Tim Norman

Senior golfer Bill Lehman follows through on the practice tee. The Falcons are looking forward to hitting the links and improving over last year.

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is recyclable!**

Track teams anxious to begin outdoor seasons

by Patrick Murphy
sports writer

Go play outside.
You might remember this being told to you by your parents when they got sick of seeing you, but the track team would not mind hearing that at all.

Both track coaches have concluded they will be much better teams during the outdoor season.

"We use the indoor season as a spring board for the outdoor season," said men's head coach Sid Sink. "We'll be very good — a much better team outdoors."

One of the reasons is BG's non-existent training facilities.

"Our indoor training facilities are negligible," said women's head coach Steve Price.

But do not look for the team to use it as an excuse.

"This year has been maybe one of our best years ever for an indoor season," Price said.

The women finished the indoor season with a 3-1 mark while the men finished 1-3.

The men will look to the throwers to lead the way in scoring said Sink.

"The throwers are our biggest area. We have three good hammer throwers and discus throwers and a couple of shot putters and javelin throwers," he said.



"We use the indoor season as a springboard for the outdoor season. We'll be very good — a much better team outdoors."

--Sid Sink, men's track coach

Senior Dave Traylor, junior John Slater, and sophomore Eric Goudy will throw the hammer and the discus, Sophomore Brian Barbey and freshman Eric Gingras will throw the javelin, and junior Bill Overla and Traylor will shot put.

Another area that the men hope to do well in is the field events.

The sprinters will feature freshman Aaron Straw, sophomore Shawn Blanchett, junior Todd Black, and seniors Steve Oxer and Mike Stives.

Although Sink looks for leadership in these areas, he said he thinks the team is solid.

"The key to this team is that we do not have a weakness," he said. "We are looking to be one of the top two or three teams, but Eastern Michigan will be tough to beat."

The women have a similar outlook as the men. Price said that he also expects to do much better outdoors.

"We expect alot of improvement outdoors," he said. "We will be training hard for the season, especially for the spring break meets."

Both of the teams begin the outdoor season over spring break at the Wake Forest Invitational in North Carolina. They then travel to the Florida Relays at Gainesville, Florida. Price said he likes the competition.

The quality of the competition will be high," he said. "The Florida Relays feature teams from all over the country."

Senior Tracy Gareke will again lead the way for the Falcons. Although she failed to qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships, she hopes to rebound and reach the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

"It was a real disappointment not to make the NCAA's, but that will be help me to be more determined for the outdoors," she said.



BG News/Tim Norman

One of the newest members of the track team, freshman Eric Gingras hurls the javelin at a Falcon indoor practice.

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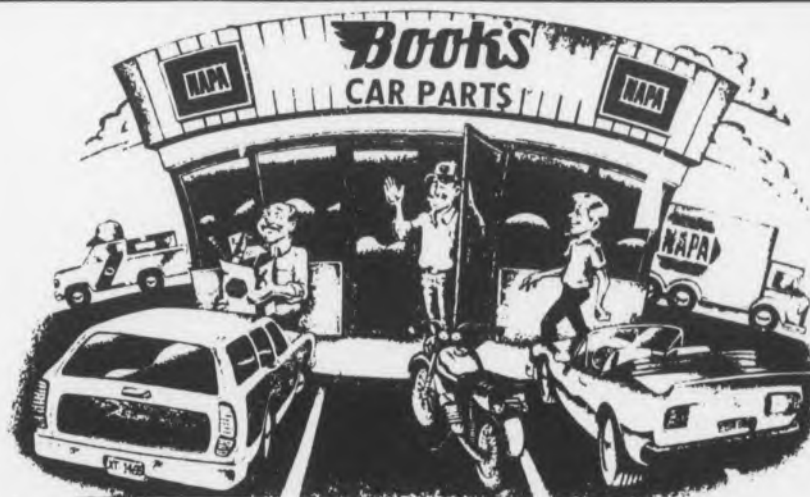
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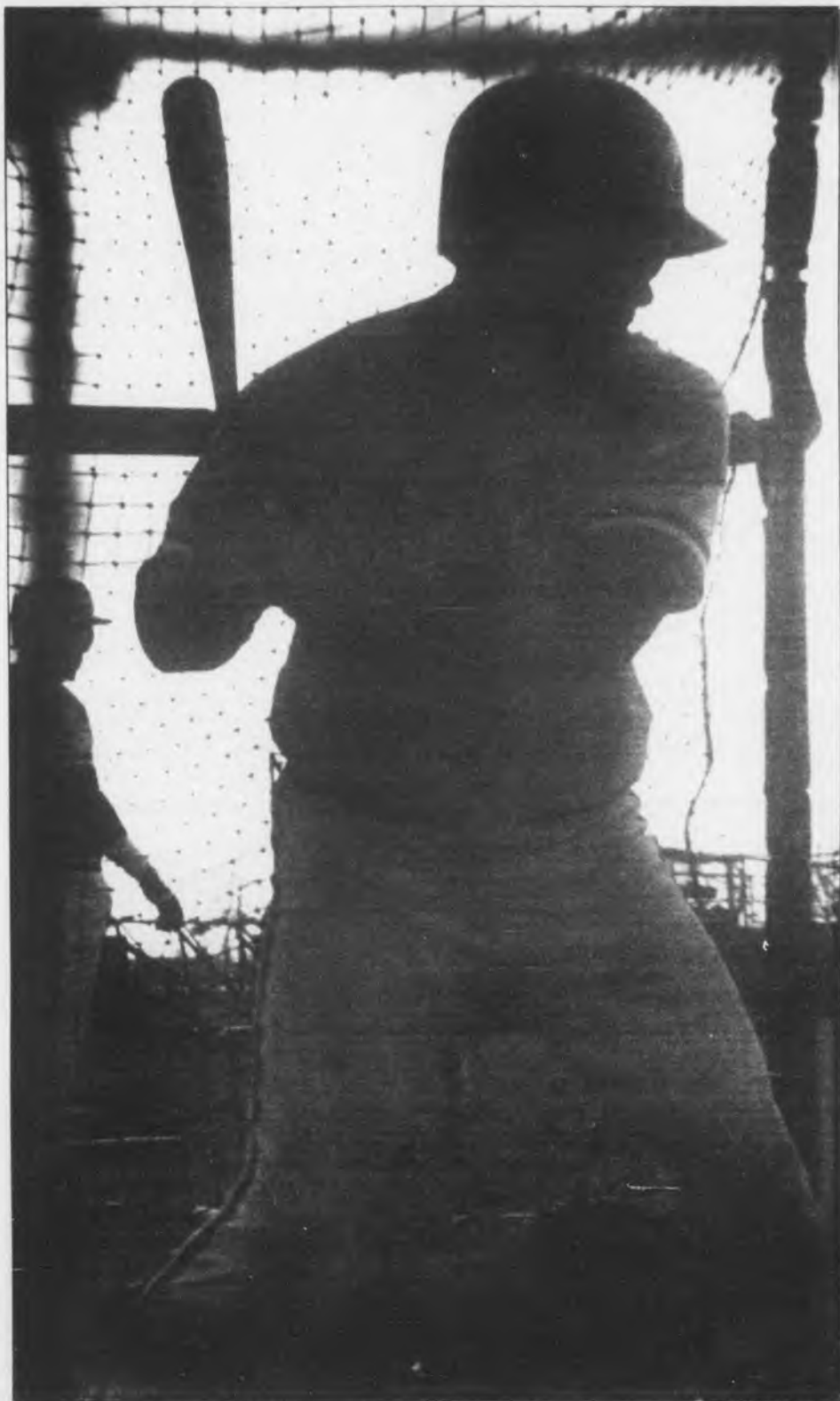
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Falcons eye defending champ CMU



Brian Koelling waits for the next pitch during batting practice. Koelling, a senior co-captain, gives the Falcons one of the MAC's best shortstops.

by Jamie Joss
assistant sports editor

The Mid-American Conference isn't exactly noted as a hotbed for major league baseball prospects but has actually produced some of the most notable players in the league.

Mike Schmidt (Ohio), Thurman Munson (Kent State), Orel Hershisier (BG), Bob Welch (Eastern Michigan), are the most recognized MAC players.

This year's Falcon squad may not have many major league prospects, but should provide more excitement than former Falcon squads with the guidance of new head coach Danny Schmitz.

This year's MAC opposition shapes up like this:

Ball State - The Cardinals posted an eighth-place finish with an 8-19 MAC record, 21-23 overall.

Sophomore Scott Murr returns BSU's steady bat after posting a .296 batting average and nine runs batted in. In addition, junior Curtis Greene returns after hitting .292, eight home runs, and 22 RBI.

However, the key for the Cards will be finding a steady rotation, which only returns two halfway decent pitchers in senior Bob Court (5-7, 4.45 earned run average in 83 innings pitched) and sophomore Vince Rago (3-2, 6.93 ERA in 37.7 IP).

Central Michigan - The team to beat after a first-place finish (19-9, 38-19) last season returns two All-MAC selections in junior Matt Bauer and senior Scott MacGregor. Bauer a first-team choice hit .387 with seven HR and 42 RBI. MacGregor hit .358 with eight HR and 41 RBI to place on the second team.

The pitching staff returns senior Pat Bojcun who posted an 8-6 record and a 4.09 ERA. Bauer is also an accomplished pitcher with a 6-2 finish and a 4.93 ERA.

Eastern Michigan - EMU finished fourth last season (20-12, 32-25) and hope that senior Charles Thomas can do for the baseball team, what he did for the Eastern basketball team — first place and a trip to the NCAA's.

Thomas will attempt to play baseball for the first time since high school where he and his brother teamed up to gain the state title. A pitcher in high school (9-4 his senior year), is expected to fill a variety of roles on the diamond.

In addition to Thomas, EMU returns senior Steve Waite (.333 BA, 20 RBI), junior Aldo Pecorelli (.371, 31 RBI).

The rotation will be aided with the return of senior Doug Martin (8-5, one save and 87 innings pitched), sophomore Leo Hutchinson (3-0, 3.86 ERA), and senior Matt Avery (4-2, one save, 5.98 ERA).

Kent State - Coming off a very successful season in which it placed third in the Mid-American Conference (17-10, 35-18) and finished just short of winning the ti-

tle but couldn't capture a win in the final weekend series against Central Michigan (eventual title winners).

The Flashes return two powerful seniors in Jim Givens and Pat Rollins. Givens finished first-team All-MAC last season with a .346 BA, 37 runs scored, and a .408 on-base percentage. Rollins a second-team All-MAC selection provides much of the beef in the batting order after posting a .395 BA, seven HR, and 47 RBI.

Kent also holds a very youthful, but potent hurling squad with sophomore returnees Bill Underwood and Joe Long. Underwood a right-handed first-team All-MAC and Freshman of the Year posted a perfect 8-0 record with a 3.36 ERA. While Long a lefty, was a second-team All-MAC went 7-1 with a 4.20 ERA.

The bullpen is one of the strongest assets of KSU with junior left-hander Joe Crawford who had five saves, three wins, and a 0.71 ERA in 15 relief appearances.

Miami - Baseball fever isn't exactly pouring out of Oxford, O. but it is flowing steadily.

MU finished last season in fifth with a .500 mark in the MAC (14-14), but a more impressive 34-22 record overall.

Power for the Redskins comes from the impressive arms of junior J.P. Paul (9-7, 3.74 ERA) and reliever sophomore Ted Ward (2-3, 15 saves, 3.98).

In addition, they excel equally at the plate with junior Dave Preikszas (.398 BA, four HR, 31 RBI) and senior Rob Yelton (.395, two HR, 32 RBI).

Ohio - For the Bobcats, the season wasn't much to look at on paper, but they did finish on an upswing.

After winning 16 of their last 20 games they posted a 12-16 MAC record and 29-27 overall record, to establish themselves as one of the teams to watch in '91.

OU has led the league in pitching the last two years and will look to carry on that tradition with leading hurler junior Bob Robinson who posted a 9-4 record and a 2.62 ERA.

Leading hitters include junior shortstop Rick Czajkowski who batted .352 and drove in 35 runs.

Toledo - The Rockets finished in dead last (7-17, 21-27).

Not much else can be said.

UT has 12 returning lettermen and of which six are returning starters.

Western Michigan - The 1989 MAC title holders fell just short of a repeat performance finishing second at 19-6 in the MAC and 30-20 overall.

John Timko a first-team All-MAC designated hitter is the leading returnee for Western after hitting .389 and drove in 49 runs.

The pitching staff is one of the Broncos strong points heading into the '91 campaign. Don Beyer (5-1, 3.47 ERA, two saves) and Tim Gibson (6-2, 3.73 ERA, six saves) lead the efforts to regain the MAC-title.

Buckle Up For Spring Break '91

Freshmen a key to softball success



Falcon softball player Julie Hudson swings for the fences.

80 News/Jay Murdock

by Glen Lubbert
sports writer

After a disappointing 1990 season, the women's softball team is returning with young, experienced players, including nine returning letterwinners.

The Falcons went 10-17 in the Mid-American Conference, placing them seventh in the Championships, and 19-31 overall last season.

Head coach Jackie Joseph has made some position changes from last year in order to improve the Falcon defense.

On the mound, sophomores Laura Unterbrink, Amy Simmons, and junior transfer Jody Record will be taking up pitching where graduated Lisa Hufford and Pam Bochinski left off. Simmons was 2-4 last season, pitched 68.7 innings while posting a 1.43 ERA. As a freshman, Simmons earned wins over Ohio and Wright State.

"I think with pitching it's important to remember it's a staff," Joseph said. "Amy alone won't be as effective than if she was one of three. She saw the most time last year, but one kid can't throw 60 games."

A strong set of underclassmen will lead the Falcons on the infield. Freshmen Karen Brown and Julie Moss will be battling for the first base position.

"All the freshman will be seeing a lot of playing time," Joseph said. "Karen Brown right now is playing both first and third and Julie Moss will be sharing time at the first base position. She will be in the designated player role."

Last season sophomore Julie Hudson had an outstanding freshman campaign at first base playing in 47 out of 51 games. However, this season Hudson will be moving to catcher.

"Julie will be moving to catcher because we graduated last season's catcher," Joseph said. "She was the prime candidate. However, right now she is suffering from a herniated disc, so she will be playing first base. She is an outstanding first baseman."

At second base, senior Becky Bailey will be start for the fourth straight year. Bailey, who is coming off a knee injury, played in 51 games last season and had a career high .215 batting average.

Sharing time with Bailey at second base will be junior Karen Appelbaum. Bailey will also assist as shortstop along with sophomore Dena Romstadt and freshman Rachelle Highfill. At third base, second team All-MAC pick Romstadt, will continue her 1990 season success this year. She played in 48 out of 51 games as a freshman and was second on the team with a .293 batting average.

"Dena Romstadt, in my opinion, is one of the best third basemen in the conference," Joseph said. "Dena has an outstanding arm, an absolute gun."

In the outfield, junior Kim Snyder and Appelbaum will be returning to the three positions. Freshman Missy Clay, Moss, sophomore Jeni Leis, and Record could all see time in the outfield positions.

"The outfield is pretty much open," Joseph said. "Missy Clay has taken on the leadership role in center field."

On offense, Romstadt, Hudson, and Leis will provide the back-bone of the Falcon attack. Hudson and Leis both hit .231 last season. However, newcomers Clay, Highfill, Moss, Brown, and Record will be providing strong hitting support.

Last season Romstadt was tied for first on the team for doubles with 10 and second in runs with 15. Leis led the team in RBI last season with 19 and she also had 13 runs. Hudson had nine runs, five doubles, and eight RBI.

Joseph is planning on combining a youth and skill to achieve a successful 1991 campaign.

"I think we're a very young team," Joseph said. "We have a lot of talent and I'm really looking forward to the season."

Women's tennis set for Hilton Head

by Matt Schroder
sports editor

There's nothing wrong with the women's tennis team's performance that a little sun, sand, and a lot of court time can't cure.

Posting a 3-5 record so far this winter, coach Penny Dean's squad will pack for Hilton Head on March 23 for its Spring trip. Dean is hoping to work out some of the kinks during the week-long Spring break.

"We really should have played more

actual matches at this point in the season and that's why this trip is so important to the team," said Dean, who is in finishing her first full year with the Falcons.

"I expect a much improved team to return. Some of the things giving us trouble should be worked out by then," Dean added.

In doubles, Dean is most concerned about improving the play at the net. The three doubles pairs include juniors Carla Marshack and Tisa Pacella, and senior Kelly King and sophomore Robyn Monn. The third doubles team is yet

to be determined.

"Our singles players have to work on consistency," Dean said. "Individual tennis matches are long and each one takes total concentration. We have to be using maximum concentration the entire time."

Here is BG's single's lineup for spring season:

- First singles, Marshack
- Second, Pacella
- Third, King
- Fourth, junior Sarah Emdin
- Fifth, Monn
- Sixth, freshman Lori Wydysh

The Falcons will carry a two-game winning streak into the spring trip. BG recently defeated Indiana State and Akron.

According to Dean, the team is hoping to win all non-conference matches and finish in the top half of the Mid-American Conference.

"I'd like to see everyone reach her potential," Dean said. "And win, lose or draw, if every player gives 110 percent, I can't ask any more of them."

While in Hilton Head, BG will play five matches, including one against Arkansas Little-Rock and Davidson.

Schmitz brings BG winning tradition

by Steve Easton
assistant sports editor

Winning baseball teams have surrounded Danny Schmitz for most of his life.

Here's just a few of his achievements in collegiate and professional baseball.

- Member of 1975 Eastern Michigan team which won the Mid-American Conference title and went to College World Series.

- Member of 1976 EMU squad which repeated as MAC champion and CWS trip and finished No. 2 in the nation.

- Played on five championship teams in six years in New York Yankees' minor-league system.

- Managed three years at Visalia, Minnesota Twins' Class A franchise in the California League. Schmitz won a second-half division title but lost in the finals of league playoffs.

And if any of these successful campaigns can rub off on the BG baseball team, it could mean a prosperous baseball season out at Stellar Field for a change.

Schmitz, along with his assistant, Mark Nell, encounter a difficult task in reviving the Falcon baseball program which captured only two winning seasons in the MAC during the 1980's — the last one in 1983.

Judging from Schmitz's success, it is not surprising the optimism he is expressing toward the

coming season.

"Both Mark (Nell) and I are from winning programs," Schmitz said. "We want to bring the winning tradition we've been accustomed to Bowling Green and change the attitude to a winning one."

"I'm real happy to be here at Bowling Green, and we feel it's a great town, community, and university. It's a sleeping giant."

After experiencing such good fortune in professional ball, Schmitz returned to the collegiate ranks due to the strenuous seasons required by the minor leagues.

"I have two children, Spencer, 10, and Jamie Lynn, 5, and the lifestyle is tough with being away

"Both Mark (Nell) and I are from winning programs. We want to bring the winning tradition we've been accustomed to Bowling Green and change the attitude to a winning one."

"I'm real happy to be here at Bowling Green, and we feel it's a great town, community, and university. It's a sleeping giant."

--Danny Schmitz, head baseball coach

from home for six to eight months out of the year," he said. "My wife, Cindy, and I decided it was more important to raise our children together rather than being apart so much."

The adjustment from the pro to college ranks brings different tasks but not much contrast in the amount of paperwork.

"I would say coaching ranks third or fourth on my list of duties as a head coach at the college level," Schmitz said. "I have to do scheduling, recruiting, and fund raising which brings many responsibilities, but I enjoy it. It's a new challenge and I like challenges."

During his stay with Visalia, the Twins required Schmitz to fill out reports on players — including every player in the league at the end of the year.

One thing which is a change from the professional ball is having players who are required to attend class and not just play games.

But Schmitz's goal is to develop athletes who will be respected away from the baseball diamond as well as on.

"We're stressing that we believe in work habits — not only on the baseball field but in the classroom as well," Schmitz said. "One of the things I picked up from Davey Johnson (former New York Mets manager) when I played under him was that he wanted his players to be the best thing they could possibly be."

"That's what we're going to do here with our players."

By accenting positive attitudes with each of his players Schmitz believes it will transfer an upbeat atmosphere to the team in general.

Along with developing sound people on and off the field, Schmitz believes his team can contend this season with his current roster and be forced to rebuild.

"If we didn't feel that we could contend there's no sense in going out on the field," he said. "We want to win the MAC championship."

"We have four seniors on the squad right now and for us as a staff to say we're rebuilding it's not fair to them."

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